



SEVEN DAYS May 5-12, 2004

Duane Carleton/"Chasing After the Stars" (Higher Road Records)

West Rutland musician, composer and music producer Duane Carleton does it all on his self-produced and totally homemade recording, *Chasing After the Stars*. In addition to engineering, mixing and creating the artwork, Carleton plays guitars, bass, pedal steel, keyboards, mandolin and percussion - sometimes all at once. At his best, Carleton sings like a young Bob Seger. He writes catchy pop songs concerning his life and loves. The music here is full of riffs and chord patterns familiar to fans of the Eagles and a whole generation of "classic FM" semi-acoustic music. Whether or not you like the genre, it's hard to fault the musicianship in this project. Carleton has been performing for more than 20 years and seems quite comfortable in front of a microphone as well as behind the console. *Chasing After the Stars* is a professional-sounding recording that could have come from Nashville as easily as from Rutland County, even with the "Vermont-specific" references in the lyrics.

by Robert Resnik